

PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN NAVY PERSONNEL AND FORMER NAVY PERSONNEL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY LOST OR DAMAGED AS THE RESULT OF A FIRE AT THE OUTLYING DEGAUSSING BRANCH OF THE NORFOLK NAVY YARD, PORTSMOUTH, VA., ON DECEMBER 4, 1942.

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3606]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3606) to provide for reimbursement of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of a fire at the Outlying Degaussing Branch of the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., on December 4, 1942, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,554.95, or such portion thereof as may be necessary to pay claims of certain Navy personnel and former Navy personnel for personal property lost or damaged as the result of a fire at the Outlying Degaussing Branch at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., on December 4, 1942.

Said branch comprises a station that contained barracks for the use of military personnel. On December 4, 1942, a fire occurred at the station. A board of investigation convened by the commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard, found that considerable damage and destruction was caused by the fire and attending smoke and water to private personal property of the personnel on the station, a majority of whom were too busily engaged in fighting the fire to make any attempt to save their personal effects.

There is no other authority of law by virtue of which the claims may be adjusted.

The Navy Department is strongly of the opinion that provision should be made for the payment of these claims, in that the personnel

involved were assigned to duty at said station by orders of the Navy Department and the loss of and damage to their property occurred without fault or negligence on their part.

These claims were submitted to the Navy Department Claims Board, which found the value of the property lost and damaged to be \$5,554.95.

The additional cost to the Government, should this bill be enacted into law, would not exceed \$5,554.95.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.

